

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel claims 5, 6 and 7.

Enter new claims 8, 9 and 10, as follows:

8. (NEW) A multi-use diaper consisting of an outer impermeable shell shaped to fit about a user and having internal absorbent means wherein the absorbent means is a set of disposable, absorbent pads, the shell having openings associated with each pad in the set and having a disposal bag associated with each pairing of pad and opening.

9. (NEW) The diaper of claim 8 wherein each pad in the set is bottom-lined with an impermeable material and comprises a tongue for grasping which protrudes outside through the opening in the shell.

10. (NEW) The diaper of claim 8 wherein each disposal bag is affixed at one end to its corresponding pad and at its other end to the opening in the shell and having a tear-away area and closure means to seal in a used pad.

IN THE DESCRIPTION

In the Description section, the substitute specification already addressed some of the requirements set forth in this Office action. It is requested that the submittal of a still additional substitute specification be deferred until the inventor can tell how to propose a new text.

In the first paragraph of the Detailed Description, please substitute the following proposed wording:

“The invention as shown in Fig.1, is a multiuse diaper consisting of an impermeable garment or shell 101 shaped to provide a waist portion 102 and two leg portions 103. Inside each shell 101 is a stack or pile of pads 104. Each pad in stack 104 is connected to its own opening 107 in shell 101, as illustrated in Fig.3.”

In the original Specification, last paragraph of page 3, mention is made of a simple multiplicity of pads. This could be an antecedent to cover a description of such a conservative number as five or six pads.

The Abstract has already been modified along the lines set forth in this Office action, so there is no legal terminology to change. There is no line 12 in the substitute Abstract.

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

In Fig. 1 the stack of pads is now properly identified with the numeral 104 and an arrow.

Element (ties) 201 has been deleted in Fig. 1 but retained in Fig. 3 in order to illustrate one of several possible ways to keep pads 104 in place, Since ties 201 were originally mentioned but not illustrated and are not claimed (as remarked by the Examiner) it is believed that this objection has been dealt with properly.

The objection to numerals 102 and 103 has been addressed by amending the text to read "...garment or shell 101 shaped to provide a waist portion 102 and two leg portions 103" in the first paragraph of the DETAILED DESCRIPTION section.

In Fig. 1 numeral 107 has been deleted since it appears to denote the same structure as numeral 111. It has been retained in Fig. 3.

In Fig. 2 the objection to 109 was complied with in my response to the Office action of 7-8-2002. It clearly denotes a pad. The objection to the line from 112 was complied with at the same time.

The objection by the Draftsperson to the margins has been corrected.

ON CITED PRIOR ART

It is noted that subject matter of claims 5-7 patentably distinguished over cited prior art except for the newly cited LaVon et al Pub. No. US2003/0199844 A1.

The LaVon et al invention does not anticipate my invention.

LaVon et al invented a disposable diaper where the novelty lies in the combination of a chassis having a non-removable absorbent core in capillary liquid communication with a removable/replaceable core. In contrast, my invention consists of a plurality of absorbent pads (cores) where each pad is bottom-lined with an impermeable material so there cannot possibly exist any capillary liquid communication between pads. Actually, the very opposite (no capillary liquid communication) is desired.

LaVon et al explain that with a view of controlling leakage occurring mainly through a second or subsequent discharges which could not be absorbed due to the inability to transport liquid to the farthest reaches of the absorbent core, the removable core was a necessary component. Yet, when the removable core is deemed saturated and is replaced, the non-removable core stays saturated and may even presumably transport some of its liquid back on to the new, dry core once capillary communication is established therebetween. This will, at best, reduce the capacity of the new core to absorb new liquid since it is already absorbing some of the old. The non-removable core works just once, but stays on as a burden for every new core. Every subsequent cycle of saturation, removal and replacement of the removable core will be at a disadvantage and every new core will always work at less than full capacity. This diaper will cause leakage, just what it is meant to prevent. The contrast with my invention is substantial since my invention provides for the removal of a saturated pad which will be substituted with a new, dry one.

The LaVon invention does not anticipate the integrated disposal bag which permits touch-free disposal of a used pad. This alone is a significant advantage over the LaVon

invention, which does not even contemplate a similar hygienic approach. A touch-free and probably odour free approach to used-bag (used-core) disposal is valuable where contamination must be avoided at all costs.

The LaVon publication is more of an elusive attempt at invention through committee than actual innovation.

INTERFERENCES

It may be necessary to disclose that the inventor, eager to find a market for the MULTI-USE DIAPER contacted several companies and sent copy of the complete disclosure including specification, claims and drawings, as follows:

- A. THE PROCTER AND GAMBLE COMPANY. Mailed them copy of the application on July 6, 2001 following all their directions for submittal. They refused to acknowledge receipt and after some insistence, after 66 days, I received an informal acknowledgement in the form of a handwritten note at the top on one of my letters. I enclose copy of all correspondence in this case. Perhaps it should be made of record in the LaVon application since their C.I.P. No. 09/911,108 was filed some time after my submittal.
- B. KIMBERLY-CLARK CORPORATION. Mailed copy on September 18, 2001. Copy of correspondence enclosed.
- C. PARENTWISE. Copy of correspondence enclosed. Please note no final response was received and that the inventor did not follow up after December 1, 2001.
- D. ISC INVENTION SUBMISSION CORPORATION. They prepared a report, which they contend is a first step in the road to finding a buyer. Nothing has been done beyond this stage. Copy of report is available if so required.

Applicant has tried to comply with all requirements and expects the application to be in road to future allowance.

Respectfully Submitted



Herbert R. Burnham

Enclosures